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Application Serial No. 09/574,909

JAN 20 2006

In light of the differences between amended Claim 86 and the Giovannoli reference and Improvenet Publications, one of ordinary skill in the art recognizes that the broadest, reasonable interpretation of these references cannot anticipate or render obvious the recitations as set forth in amended independent Claim 86. Accordingly, consideration and an indication that Claim 86 is allowable over the prior art are respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 93

It is respectfully submitted that the Improvenet publications fail to describe, teach, or suggest the combination of (1) receiving information relating to a home service; (2) in response to receiving the information, providing a menu comprising tasks that relate to skills of home service providers; (3) receiving a selection of a task from the menu; (4) in response to receiving the selection of the task, forming a first dataset with the first computer and stored in memory on the first computer that identifies a set of qualified home service providers, (5) the first dataset comprising home service providers from the database who match the selected task; (6) selecting home service providers from the first dataset with the first computer based upon the historical acceptance of consumer leads (7) that tracks types of services associated with the consumer leads and are accepted by home service providers to form a second dataset stored in memory in the first computer; and (8) creating a fair and balanced distribution of consumer leads by (9) selecting home service providers from the second dataset with the first computer who have a least number of consumer leads that were made available to the home service providers to form a third dataset, as recited in amended independent Claim 93.

Similar to independent Claim 79, the Giovannoli reference and the Improvenet Publications, individually or in combination, do not describe creating a fair and balanced distribution of consumer leads by selecting home service providers from the second dataset with the first computer who have a least number of consumer leads that were made available to the home service providers to form a third dataset, as recited in independent Claim 86.

In light of the differences between amended Claim 93 and the Giovannoli reference and the Improvenet Publications, one of ordinary skill in the art recognizes that the broadest, reasonable interpretation of these references cannot anticipate or render

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obvious the recitations as set forth in amended independent Claim 93. Accordingly, consideration and an indication that Claim 93 is allowable over the prior art are respectfully requested.

Dependent Claims 80-85, 87-92, and 94-98

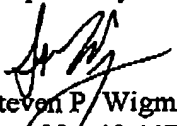
These dependent claims should be allowable because their corresponding independent claims should be allowable over the prior art of record. Consideration of these dependent claims and an early notice of allowance are courteously solicited from the Examiner.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action mailed on July 20, 2005. The Applicants and the undersigned thank Examiner Garg for consideration of these remarks. The Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Such action is hereby courteously solicited.

If the Examiner believes that there are any issues that can be resolved by a telephone conference, or that there are any formalities that can be corrected by an Examiner's amendment, please contact the undersigned in the Atlanta Metropolitan area (404) 572-2884.

Respectfully submitted,


Steven P. Wigmore
Reg. No. 40,447
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King & Spalding LLP
191 Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
404.572.4600
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